

Oblique Arts

is an arts charity working with socially disadvantaged groups in Cambridgeshire



Still from [Bright Lights CB4](#) video content by the local community including the homeless and disadvantaged.



Mixed Bag Theatre workshops.

1. Intro

Oblique Arts is a charity working on a number of different arts projects with established community organisations and people from socially marginalised groups. Our goal is to bring about a positive change using arts and creative projects as a tool. We see that working with these different minority groups, such as the elderly, the homeless or disabled allows them to become part of society again and to be creative which then also extends into their everyday lives. Therefore we are very passionate about the different Oblique Arts projects.

2. Project overview

These are our main projects at present:

1. **Mixed Bag Theatre - Is a theatre group for adults with mild to severe learning disabilities.**

Mixed Bag Theatre runs twice a year for 12 weeks each time. The theatre group currently engages 12 people with learning difficulties plus a further 12 people engaging with the actors. Each term ends with a number of performances. This creative roleplay and performance group allows the participants to work out their individual strengths & personalities.

Website: www.oblique-arts.com/projects/mix-bag-theatre/

2. **YEP - Youth Engagement Project - Active citizenship and creative workshops for a mixed group of young people including youth with learning disabilities.**

The Youth Engagement Project works with a group of young and dedicated people from across Cambridgeshire. Some of the young people are not in any type of school or education. Oblique Arts works with these youth once per week all year long. YEP is supported by the Cambridgeshire County Council who also refers the youth to us. The young people learn creative skills and we host workshops with them for other disadvantaged groups and 'youth proof' organisations locally. The project objective is to improve the communities where these youth live, which will allow them better prospects in the future.

Website: www.oblique-arts.com/projects/yep-youth-engagement-project/

3. **Art in Motion - for the Homeless in Cambridge - Are workshops engaging homeless people in creative artwork**

We work with Jimmy's Nightshelter and Wintercomfort where we engage homeless participants to learn skills in art and animation. The workshops allow the participants to express themselves and bring emotions and feelings onto paper and canvas. It is also a change from everyday life and the problems that they face. These workshops have shown to be a great environment for social workers to engage with the individuals. The art results are then edited and shown at festivals such as E-Luminate Festival in Cambridge. Wintercomfort has previously hosted opening events with food to celebrate with the homeless people involved. The Art in Motion workshops currently run once per week all year long, if we can secure more funding this can run twice a week. **Website:** www.oblique-arts.com/category/jimmys/

4. **Imagination - are workshops for older people suffering from dementia or other disabilities who may suffer isolation**

Imagination is a weekly run workshop where we engage the elderly community from 3 different locations, the participants are generally over 70 or suffer from early onset dementia, in painting, textiles and clay work. The results of workshops are shown as collaborative exhibitions. Recent coverage included 'Women of Strength' and was shown on local television. The last final exhibition was in April 2018. We have currently run out of funding for this workshop to continue.

Website: <https://oblique-arts.com/projects/imagination-for-mature-participants/>

5. **Edge Words - is a creative writing and performance poetry workshop for those in recovery from alcohol and drug addiction**

This project offers workshops with skilled tutors and performance poets. Participants learn skills, produce small anthologies and perform at events in the recovery café in Cambridge. The poetry is collected and then published in a book. This project also runs weekly, but is currently out of funding.

Website: <https://oblique-arts.com/tag/creative-writing-workshops/>

6. **New projects:**

There are a number of new projects Oblique Art is working on, which we would like to realise.

- Pop-up cinema in rural communities

We have chosen 6 different villages with very high unemployment rates and isolation, which are on the social deprivation register. The project offers pop-up screenings and training to show communities how to establish film clubs as a social cohesion activity and teaching tool. We feel that somebody who has been in long term unemployment needs to engage in training. This type of creative but structured workshop environment provides people with training and skills, which they can then build upon.

3. What we are about

Our main objective is to bring about positive social change using different forms of arts as a tool. Art helps to relieve stress; art encourages creative thinking, boosts self-esteem, and provides a sense of accomplishment.

Who we work with

We are currently working with these local and disadvantaged communities; adults with physical and mental disabilities, young people not in the educational system (11-18 year old), adults in recovery from drug and alcohol abuse, older people suffering from dementia, and ethnic minorities facing exclusion from society.

Oblique Arts has successfully managed to impact these lives over the past seven years. We feel that we have achieved a lot with our work, which has let to great popularity with project participants who are otherwise often excluded from local society.

4. How we are funded

Our well-established and respected arts charity is funded primarily by grants, which have come from a number of public institutions and private trusts.

As we are reliant on contributions and support we would like to extend the possibility to participate in some of our projects to a number of selected companies by donating to Oblique Art charity.

In return we offer companies the opportunity to be part of any of our projects. You will always be welcome to attend any of the final exhibitions, plays or workshops. Most importantly you will be allowed to advertise your support for Oblique Arts, for example in your local community or any type publication. We can also create a publicity event for the presentation of a cheque with local press present.

The minimum funds that the projects need in order to continue are:

1. Mixed Bag Theatre Project:	£5,500 Per Term
2. YEP - Youth Engagement Project	£4,500 Per Term
3. Art in Motion - for homeless participants:	£1,500 Per Term
4. Imagination - art for older people with dementia:	£2,200 Per Term
5. Edge Words - creative writing for those in recovery from substance abuse:..	£1,500 Per Term
6. Pop up Rural Community Cinema - for communities facing rural isolation and economic hardship. Cost - 6 villages - 6 months:	£26,000 Total
7. We would like to extend the scope of the charity by provision of improved office and administrative support. This will offer a sustainable base for all of our current and future work.....	£15,000 Per Annum

How you can support us:

We like to kindly ask if you have any resources that allow you to contribute to any of our projects or our charity organisation.

If you want to become a sponsor or donor there are a number of ways to do so. The first step is to contact us by email mail@obliquarts.co.uk or call us on **074674867483** or facebook/obliquarts. In this way we can discuss the benefits you would like to receive in return, as mentioned above.

In case you would simply like to make a donation you can do so anytime:

BACS
Oblique Arts
Lloyds Bank, Mill Rd, Cambridge.
Sort code: 301355
Acc. 03342675

Any charitable donations are tax detachable. You may deduct the value of your donations from your total business profit before paying tax (<https://www.gov.uk/tax-limited-company-gives-to-charity/donating-money>)

Thank you